Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph on page 2, beginning on line 17 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Correspondingly, a consumer may find programming of interest on a web site. To view the content, the user installs a second hard drive in a PC. That is, the new second hard drive is in addition to the drive that is used to boot the PC and will be used for storing the digital content. Next, the user acquires and installs on the PC special software to format the new hard drive so that it is compatible with the set-top box. The user then captures the desired content to some PC storage (that is not the newly created set-top compatible disk), for example, downloading from the Internet. Special conversion software is then executed to convert the digital video distribution image into a format compatible with the set-top box.

A1

Please replace paragraph on page 3, beginning on line 12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Another obvious playback platform is the PC. Any PC with a broadband Internet connection is well ~~position~~ positioned to acquire the digital video content. Assuming the PC in question has a DVD player and a DVD-R writer, it would be straightforward for the user to acquire or copy a digital movie and write it to a DVD-R. The owner of such a PC could, with relative ease, build a substantial library of DVD-R digital video movies. Pirate DVDs borrowed from friends could easily be copied and the broadband Internet connection would offer access to a wealth of digital video. It is reasonable to assume that pirates first, then legitimate companies will emerge to provide web portals for downloading digital video.

A2

Please replace paragraph on page 3, beginning on line 20 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Understandably, content providers are apprehensive about the ability to maintain control of their product to avoid theft or misuse, which undercut profitability. If the content providers become too uneasy about possible ~~comprise~~ compromise of their product, they may withhold programming and be disinclined from developing additional programming. Hence, any DVR product or mechanism that is endorsed, for example, by a subscription movie service (e.g.,

A3

A3

DIRECTV©) must provide reasonable assurances to the content providers that the content will not be used in a fashion that is objectionable.

Please replace paragraph on page 5, beginning on line 22 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A4

According to one aspect of the invention, a method is provided for storing and retrieving digital data within a hardware platform. The method includes receiving data bits across [[of]] a bus of a fixed width; the data bits form a bit pattern. In addition, the method encompasses altering the bit pattern of the data bits according to a prescribed scheme. Further, the method includes storing the altered data bits, restoring the altered data bits to the bit pattern, and outputting the restored data bits. This approach advantageously inhibits unauthorized copying of digital content.

Please replace paragraph on page 12, beginning on line 22 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A5

Figure 6 is a diagram of the DVR content protection mechanism utilizing bit inversion and scrambling, according to an embodiment of the present invention. This embodiment of the present invention employs a combination of bit inversion and scrambling; only the scrambler/inverter logic is shown. The data bits that are output from IDE interface ~~401~~ 205 enter FPGA ~~601~~ 113 via data path ~~407~~ 207. These data bits are first inverted according to a prescribed scheme using multiplexers 603, which are controlled by the respective select lines, I_0 SEL, I_1 SEL, ..., and I_{15} SEL. Thereafter, these inverted data bits are scrambled using multiplexers 605. Multiplexers 605 are controlled by corresponding control signals, O_0 CTRL, O_1 CTRL, ..., O_{15} CTRL. This FPGA ~~601~~ 113 yields $16!*2^{16}$ different combinations of data signals. A descrambler/ uninverter logic (not shown) converts the stored data resident within the hard disk drive 115. Although the interface 113 is described as performing inversion and subsequently scrambling, in the alternative, scrambling can be executed prior to inversion.

Please replace paragraph on page 14, beginning on line 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the instructions to perform the functions of the interface ~~13~~ 113 (Figure 2) may reside on a computer-readable medium. The term "computer-readable medium" as used herein refers to any medium that participates in providing instructions to processor 705 for execution. Such a medium may take many forms, including but not limited to, non-volatile media, volatile media, and transmission media. Non-volatile media includes, for example, optical or magnetic disks, such as storage device 711. Volatile media includes dynamic memory, such as main memory 707. Transmission media includes coaxial cables, copper wire and fiber optics, including the wires that comprise bus 703. Transmission media can also take the form of acoustic or light waves, such as those generated during radio wave and infrared data communication.